

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus comprising:

a high-frequency current generating means for delivering high-frequency output power with which high-frequency current is conducted to a living tissue for the purpose of remedy;

an output changing means for changing high-frequency output power that is delivered by said high-frequency current generating means; and

a control means for controlling the output changing means so that ~~delivery of high-frequency output power will be repeatedly continued and discontinued~~ is delivered intermittently to said tissue over a plurality of time intervals, wherein after a first time interval, each successive power delivery interval is of equal to or shorter time duration than an immediate prior interval to enable tissue coverage over a wide range.

Claim 2 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a coagulated state judging means that judges the coagulated state of the living tissue, wherein said control means controls said output changing means according to the result of judgment made by said coagulated state judging means.

Claim 3 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said control means determines based on information transferred from said coagulated state judging means the timing of discontinuing delivery of high-frequency output power.

Claim 4 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said coagulated state judging means includes a detecting means that detects biomedical

information of the living tissue, and receives the biomedical information from the detecting means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue according to the biomedical information of the living tissue, the number of ~~times of repetition of continuation and discontinuation of~~ intermittent power delivery intervals, or both the biomedical information of the living tissue and the number of ~~times of repetition of continuation and discontinuation of~~ intermittent power delivery intervals.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when said coagulated state judging means judges that coagulation of the living tissue has been completed, said control means controls said output changing means so that ~~repetition of continuation and discontinuation of~~ said intermittent delivery of high-frequency output power will be terminated.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said control means controls said output changing means so that said intermittent delivery of high-frequency power over said plurality of time intervals ~~will be repeatedly continued and discontinued in order to thus change~~ changes the magnitude of high-frequency current conducted with high-frequency output power.

Claim 8 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue from an amount of high-frequency current that is conducted to the living tissue.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue from biomedical information acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or during each pause period during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue from the biomedical information acquired during a plurality of pause periods ~~during which delivery~~ between said time intervals of high-frequency output power delivery is discontinued.

Claim 11 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said control means determines the level of high-frequency output power according to the result of judgment made by said coagulated state judging means.

Claim 12 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue by comparing the biomedical information with a predetermined threshold.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue using at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of biomedical information acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue using an initial value of biomedical information acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue by comparing biomedical information, which is acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued, with biomedical information acquired during ~~the first delivery period~~ said first time interval of high-frequency output power delivery or during ~~the~~ a first pause period thereof thereafter.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue by comparing at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of biomedical information, which are acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued, with at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of biomedical information that are acquired during ~~the first delivery period~~ said first time interval of high-frequency output power delivery or during ~~the~~ a first pause period thereof thereafter.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue by comparing at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of biomedical information, which are acquired during each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered or ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued, with at least one of a maximum value and a minimum value of biomedical information that are acquired during ~~the first delivery period~~ said first time interval of high-frequency output power delivery or during ~~the~~ a first pause period thereof thereafter.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue by comparing at least one of biomedical information acquired at the start of each ~~delivery period~~ time interval during which high-frequency output power is delivered and biomedical

information acquired ~~during each pause period~~ between said time intervals during which delivery of high-frequency output power is discontinued with at least one of biomedical information acquired at the start of ~~the first delivery period~~ said first time interval of high-frequency output power delivery and biomedical information acquired during ~~the~~ a first pause period ~~thereof~~ thereafter.

Claims 19 – 22 (Canceled).

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus comprising:

a high-frequency current generating means for delivering high-frequency output power with which high-frequency current is conducted to a living tissue for the purpose of remedy;

an output changing means for changing high-frequency output power between first and second levels that is delivered by said high-frequency current generating means; and

a control means for controlling said output changing means so that high-frequency output power of the first level and high-frequency output power of the second level different from the first level will be delivered alternately to said tissue over a plurality of time intervals, wherein after a first time interval, each successive interval of equal to or shorter time duration than an immediate prior interval to enable tissue coverage over a wide range.

Claim 24 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein: said control means controls said output changing means so that: if high-frequency current conducted with high-frequency output power of the first level meets a first condition, high-frequency output power of the second level will be delivered; and if the high-frequency current meets a second condition, high-frequency output power of the first level will be delivered.

Claim 25 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein said control means controls said output changing means so that high-frequency output power of the first level and high-frequency output power of the second level will be delivered alternately in order to thus change the magnitude of high-frequency current conducted with output power.

Claim 26 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 24, further comprising a coagulated state judging means that judges the coagulated state of the living tissue, wherein said control means controls said output changing means according to the result of judgment made by said coagulated state judging means.

Claim 27 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein said control means delivers high-frequency output power of the second level according to the result of judgment made by said coagulated state judging means.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein said coagulated state judging means judges the coagulated state of the living tissue from biomedical information of the living tissue, the number of ~~times of~~ intermittent delivery intervals of output power of the first level and the number of ~~times of~~ intermittent delivery intervals of output power of the second level, or both the biomedical information and the numbers of ~~times of~~ intermittent delivery intervals.

Claim 29 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein when said coagulated state judging means judges that coagulation of the living tissue has been completed, said control means controls said output changing means so that alternation of high-frequency output power of the first level and high-frequency output power of the second level will be terminated.

Claim 30 (Original): An electric operation apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein high-frequency output power of the second level does not substantially raise the temperature of the living tissue.